

/181 cont./

or none. The latter is never used by the men. On the Kulisehu we collected a few ornamental stones made out of grayish white quartzite with a dull shine, which were ground into the shape of a pointed spindle and were six centimeters long. We saw the nose-spindle, natiko, in actual use only in the case of a pregnant woman, who also had many ornaments hanging around her neck. These stones came from the Batovy or the Ponekuro, the right source-river of the Kulisehu; they were said to be rare, so that ordinary bones or reed had to help out. We also obtained bones of similar shape, eight and a half centimeters long, and a spindle seven centimeters long and gleaming like mother-of-pearl, which was cut out of a shell. The operation is performed in approximately the fifth year of life and is said to be accompanied by profuse bleeding on occasion.

I may add on here the binding of the extremities, although



Fig. 13. Ornamental nose-stone of the Bakaif women.

I may add on here the binding of the extremities, although it was still foreign to our Indians in the degree where it might be spoken of as a bodily injury. It was much in use among all the tribes. For this they used thick, wide straw binding, hanks of cotton, cotton ropes, or bands crocheted with wooden needles, and wore them on the upper arm and below the knee or above the ankle. The custom was most striking in the third Bakaif village, where one saw chabby, almost swollen calves. We never observed, however, such thick, protruding calves as are shown in illustrations of the male or female Karaiben of the north. We noticed the straw bindings especially among the Nahuquá (cf. Fig. 4 /see p. 71/). /182/ Only the men made use of the binding. It makes one strong, I was told by way of explanation. As dance ornaments bands decorated with colored feathers are worn around the upper arm.

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embedded individual crystals of olivine and quite a number of quartz granules. The blades, 11-21 centimeters long, are usually evenly cylindrical, but some are round in the center like a roller, taper toward the rear, and have a broad front end with a bow-shaped cutting edge. Without any lashing, they fit into a wooden handle 0.5 meters long on the average, which consists of a cylindrical upper piece bored crosswise and a thinner handle set off from this like a reed stalk from its spike. The stone points inserted in the darts and the ornamental stones of the neck chains are made of the same diabase. The Trumai ground the blades to a point on their stones and bored the ornamental stones; besides them, only the neighboring Yaulapiti did this. The other tribes simply sharpened on the river sandstone the axes that became dull. Shells and stones were bored with a swirl-borer. A triangular, hard splinter of stone was clamped to a small staff, and, to be sure, at both ends so that one could alternate them, and was secured by cord lashing. The little staff was almost half a meter long and was twirled between the hands. If stone was to be bored, sand was added. This is all the Indians achieved in the working of stone; they had



Fig. 21.

Twirl-borer.*

(1/2 nat. size/ as shown
in the original illustration/.)

*The twirl-staff is represented discontinuously.

B
412
[317]

B
T
[411]
[301]

B
* 171
412
324
T
171
412
324

B
* 171
412

/278 cont./

197
30
50
30

In like manner, small pieces of the greenish, black-speckled stone of the stone axes are: fish if they are flat, or birds if the roller-shaped body flattens out into a tail. Nature is helped along somewhat by grinding. In Figure 64, page 313, the first two chains show pierced stone disks (two to three centimeters in diameter) and stone cylinders (three centimeters long) between the nut-beads, such as are made by the Trumai and Yaulapiti. In the third, the figures of the Nahuatl are made of clay. In the fourth copied by them out of the transparent, amber-like jachil resin (Hymenaea), the third chain also contains an amber bead. A bird is strung on the first and fourth chain. The stone bird, with a small knob recognizable as a beak, is designated as a dove. The pear-shaped stones of the darts, in a small size, are also worn on the chains, tied on, not pierced, and, to be sure, we also found them imported among the Metinali, who have neither stones nor throwing sticks.



Similar figures are carved out of nut shells and bones. Among the Metinali we acquired a

Fig. 63.

[237] Bird figure made
out of mussel shell.
(2/3 nat. size /as
shown in the original
illustration./.)

piece of bagadi fish-bone seven centimeters long, a square with bow-shaped flared sides, which represents a quadruped, while a smaller piece represents a ray with the tail and beside it the ventral fins. Unfortunately, I discovered too late that there was always a definite meaning attached to the figures and am therefore unable to say what some of them mean. All guessing is pointless here.